

Using Books to Support Children's Social Emotional Development

Student Assignment



A series of higher education activities based on the CSEFEL Preschool Modules. These activities are designed to be embedded in coursework and include ideas for in-class activities and assignments.

Rationale

Books are a great and engaging way to teach about emotions. Many books are written about feelings and contain numerous feeling words. Most early childhood educators have books in their settings – so this is an easy and fun way to be more “intentional” about supporting children’s social emotional development.

General Instructions

For this assignment, students need to consider the wide range of children’s books that focus on social emotional development to develop a Book Nook.

1. **Choose an age group:** The student will decide whether he/she will target infants/toddlers (birth-3) or preschool children (3-5).
2. **Select a book:** The student will choose a children’s book that focuses on social emotional development and is appropriate to the target age group. We suggest having the books pre-approved by the instructor to ensure that a variety of books are used. You can find a list of books that promote children’s social emotional development on the CSEFEL website, as a starting point if needed.
3. **Highlight the different themes in the book:** The student will read the book several times and highlight the different themes that are included in the book content. The themes could be related to school, nature, sports, birthdays, etc. but they must have some link to social emotional skills.

Student Finished Product

Each student will develop one Book Nook that is no more than 2 pages in length. Book Nooks should support teachers in their efforts to promote social emotional development for children. Each Book Nook will include the following components:

1. **General Information:** List the title, author, illustrator, publisher, and year of publication
2. **Synopsis:** Write 5-7 sentences summarizing what the book is about, including the age group targeted by the book.
3. **Age appropriateness:** Explain why the book is appropriate to the child’s age (e.g., font, color, illustrations, content, etc.).

4. Discuss how the book promotes social emotional development, and support that with specific examples.
5. Develop a minimum of 4 discussion questions, conversation starters, and/or activities that can be used before, during, and after reading the book to promote social emotional development.
6. **Theme:** Select one theme emphasized in the book and develop 3 activities that fit the theme and emphasize social emotional skill development. These activities may be implemented in one or more areas of the classroom (e.g., art, music, movement, science, dramatic play, manipulatives, etc.).

Remember!

- Be realistic and yet creative in developing examples and activities.
- If it helps, try the activities out with a child or a group of children for clarity and practicality
- Be sure to write in complete sentences. Have a friend read a draft version of the assignment for clarity, grammar, and spelling before turning it in to the instructor.

Sample Rubric for Grading

Accurate and complete information on the book	5
Clear and informative synopsis about the selected book	5
Explain the age appropriateness of the book to the targeted children	4
Explain how the selected book promotes social emotional development, and support your rationale with specific examples from the book	5
Develop at least four clear and thoughtful discussion questions/conversation starters to promote social emotional development using the selected book (2 points for each one)	8
The activities reflect creativity, thoughtfulness, clarity, and practicality (5 points for each activity)	15
Neatness, Spelling, Grammar, Clarity	3
Total	45

Sample Book Nooks may be downloaded from <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/strategies.html#booknook>